

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 09699 011545Z

54

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-12 IO-14 DRC-01

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R 011421Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6103

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, VE

SUBJECT: SENSATIONAL PRESS REPORT CAUSES LOCAL EXCITEMENT

1. WIRE SERVICE (EFE) STORY DATELINED WASHINGTON SEPT . 20 REPORTED THAT ONE WILLIAM HIGGS, DESCRIBED AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMITTEE FOR AN OPEN SOCIETY, HAD WRITTEN SECRETARY KISSINGER EXPRESSING FEAR THAT THE US IS PLANNING AN INVASION OF VENEZUELAN OIL FIELDS BY US MARINES AND BEGGING PRESIDENT FORD NOT TO TAKE THIS ACTION "SO CONTRARY TO EVERYTHING THIS NATION SHOULD DEFEND." THIS REPORT WAS GIVEN SENSATIONAL TREATMENT BY THE SMALL CARACAS DAILY LA VERDAD SEPTEMBER 30 AND OCTOBER 1.
2. THIS REPORT WAS WIDELY DISCUSSED IN CARACAS SEPTEMBER 30, AND PRESIDENT PEREZ, DEFENSE MINISTER LEAL TORRES, INTERIOR MINISTER PINUERA ORDAZ AND INDUSTRIALIST EUGENIO MENDOZA ALL MADE STATEMENTS PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED IN LOCAL PRESS OCTOBER 1 EXPRESSING DISBELIEF IN ANY FOUNDATION TO THE REPORT.
3. COMMENT. THAT THIS RIDICULOUS WIRE SERVICE STORY COULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY ENOUGH TO PROVOKE DISCUSSION AMONG AND TO ELICIT PUBLIC COMMENT FROM THIS COUNTRY'S MOST PROMINENT CITIZENS IS A SIGNIFICANT INDICATION OF THE DEFENSIVE AND HIGHLY NATIONALISTIC FEELINGS WHICH ARE STILL RUNNING HIGH HERE FOLLOWING PRESIDENT PEREZ'S REBUTTAL OF PRESIDENT FORD'S ADDRESS TO THE

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UNGA ON ENERGY.

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Message Attributes

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